

***Cammissonia scapoidea* (Nutt. ex Torr. & Gray)**

naked-stemmed evening primrose
Portulacaceae (Primrose Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G5S1

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961):

Glabrous to puberulent annual, often glandular in the inflorescence, the stems simple or more commonly several-branched from the base, erect or spreading, 4 to 20 inches tall. Basal leaves mainly $1\frac{2}{3}$ to $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, the blades ovate to ovate-lanceolate, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch broad, sinuate-denticulate, about equaled by the slender petioles, sometimes with 2-several broadish, short pinnules below the main blade. Cauline leaves similar but smaller, abruptly reduced to the tiny linear bracts of the elongate, loosely flowered, simple or sometimes compound racemes. Pedicels $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long. Free hypanthium flared abruptly above the ovary, $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long. Sepals distinct, reflexed. Petals $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long. Stamens slightly shorter than the petals. Style about equaling the stamens. Stigma discoid, very shallowly lobed. Capsule pedicellate, usually erect, straight to slightly curved, $\frac{2}{3}$ to 1 inch long, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick. Seeds about $\frac{1}{16}$ inch long.

Identification Tips: Occurs with *Camissonia pygmaea*. The two can be distinguished by flower color: *C. scapoidea* has yellow flowers and *C. pygmaea* has white flowers.

Phenology: Flowers May through July.

Range: Eastern Oregon and Washington through southern Idaho to Wyoming, south to Colorado. In Washington, it is known only from Kittitas County in the Columbia Basin physiographic province.

Habitat: Sagebrush desert, mostly in sandy, gravelly areas. Elevation ranges from 600 to 900 feet (WA). Associated species in Washington include *Mentzelia laevicaulis*, *Mentzelia albicaulis*, *Gilia* sp., and *Eriogonum niveum*.

Ecology: The taxon is apparently adapted to some disturbance since it occurs on a sandy unstable substrate. However, it also has to compete with the many non-native annual grasses, such as *Bromus tectorum*, that have invaded such habitats.

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Known distribution of
Cammissonia scapoidea in
Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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State Status Comments: There are only two known occurrences in Washington. However, the inventory effort within the state has been fairly limited to date.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory in appropriate habitats is needed throughout the Columbia Basin.

Threats and Management Concerns: Gravel extraction and military training activities are threats to the known populations.

Comments: Synonymous with *Oenothera scapoidea* Nutt. There are 3 recognized subspecies with *C. scapoidea*, with subspecies *scapoidea* being the only one that occurs in Washington.

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 614 pp.